

## IMMUNISATION AGAINST BLACKLEG AND BRAXY.

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It was shown by Allen and Bosworth (*Vet. Journ.*, 1924, vol. lxxx., p. 9) that with a culture filtrate of *B. chauvei* and a mixture of *V. septique* toxin and anti-toxin it was possible to immunise laboratory animals and sheep against infection by both organisms. Since one or other (or both) of these organisms almost certainly causes all "blackleg" of cattle and sheep and braxy in sheep, the use of this double prophylactic promised to give protection against several diseases much feared by stock owners. Sheep were immunised by Allen and Bosworth and are still at the Wellcome Physiological Research Laboratories. Some of them have recently, 18 months after the injection of the vaccine, been given intramuscular injections of lethal doses of culture of the two organisms and have successfully withstood the test. The immunity is thus, as one would expect, of reasonably long duration.

During the past winter, nine farmers used the prophylactic on approximately half of the sheep on each farm. 549 sheep were inoculated and 464 kept on the same farms and under the same conditions were kept as controls with no inoculation. Of the inoculated group 2 (0.36 per cent.) died of braxy, of the non-inoculated 72 (15.5 per cent.) died. It is reasonable to conclude that the prophylactic has given a high degree of protection against braxy. Field trials of the prophylactic in blackleg areas are in progress.



